the scheme, 50% subsidy provided by the States/UTs to the affected farmers on the cost of diesel will be borne by the Government of India, subject to a maximum amount of 7.50 per litre of diesel. The scheme was to operate on reimbursement basis and the State Government/UT. Administrations were required to claim reimbursement for getting Government of India's share of the subsidy so paid after full disbursement of the subsidy amount. The scheme was upto 30.09.2009. No proposals have so far been received from any State Government for reimbursement.

Implementation of proposals under RKVY in Kerala

1683. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether competent authority of Kerala had submitted schemes for assistance under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) after the report submitted by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation regarding Kuttanad and Idukki packages;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance sought and action taken thereon;

(c) whether steps will be taken in affirmative to the above proposals under RKVY;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) State Government of Kerala submitted certain proposals for funding by Government of India out of Kuttanad and Idukki package.

Following projects, out of the proposals submitted to Government of India, were considered for funding under RKVY scheme:

1. Paddy Cultivation in Onattukara Costing Rs.1200 lakhs
2. Sesamum cultivation in Onatatukara costing Rs.60 lakhs
3. Establishing Centre for Farm Machinery Research, Development and Training costing Rs. 624 lakhs.
4. Agriculture Mechanization costing Rs.8500 lakhs.

RKVY, launched during August 2007, provides for projects to be approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, and not directly by the Government of India. Accordingly, these proposals were forwarded to Government of Kerala for consideration under RKVY.

Inclusion of Thrissur, Malappuram and Kuttanad districts of Kerala under NFSM

1684. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only one district Palakkad in Kerala has been included in the National Food Security Mission;

(b) if so, whether Government of Kerala has requested Central Government to include Thrissur, Malappuram and Kuttanad districts of Kerala under the National Food Security Mission; and

(c) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Only one district of Palakkad in Kerala has been included under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) *i.e.* NFSM-Rice.

(b) and (c) This Ministry received representation from the State Governments apart from other dignitaries including Members of Parliament.

The above representations were examined. The districts under NFSM are included based on certain criteria *i.e.* for NFSM-Rice, those districts were identified which have more than 50,000 ha area under rice and productivity less than the State's average productivity; for NFSM-Wheat the districts in which irrigation coverage under wheat is more than 50% and productivity is less than State's average were identified. The districts for implementation of NFSM-Pulses have been selected based on existing large area under pulses, potential for area expansion through inter-cropping and utilization of rice fallows.

Since only one district *i.e.* Palakkad qualified the above objective criteria, this district was included under NFSM-Rice for area based interventions. As regards other rice growing districts in Kerala, the State Government was advised to take these districts under the Integrated Cereals Development Programmes-Rice of Macro Management Scheme or under newly launched Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

Power supply for farm pumps in Vidarbha

1685. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the sad plight of medium and marginal farmers of Vidarbha whose first paddy crop this year has been completely destroyed due to scanty rains, and those who waited for rains and delayed their sowing, are also equally suffering; and

(b) if so, the special steps taken during August-October, 2009 to provide three phase power supply needed for farm pumps on priority basis so that the cycle of unfortunate farmers' suicides is not repeated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Government is aware of the situation. It is partially true that due to scanty rains the paddy crop has been affected and caused losses of more than 50% to the paddy crop reported on 68500 hectares in Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra.